

NINETY-FIRST  
ANNUAL REPORT

---

MECHANICS'  
INSTITUTE

SAN FRANCISCO  
CALIFORNIA

NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-SIX





ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE  
OFFICERS

Board of Trustees

Year Ending February 28, 1946

Ninety-first Annual Report

OF THE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

FOR THE

Year Ending February 28, 1946



## OFFICERS

Year Ending February 28, 1946

[illegible]

CONSTANT J. AUGER  
 CHARLES BAGBY  
 WM. A. DAY  
 JOHN F. FORBES  
 STETSON G. HINDS  
 DR. JOS. D. HODGEN  
 WILLIAM PENN HUMPHREYS  
 WILLIAM G. MERCHANT  
 H. L. SLOSSON, JR.  
 EDWIN W. STADTMULLER

GENEVIEVE TOMPKINSON - - - - - *Secretary*

*Mechanics'-Mercantile Library*

MARY O. CARMODY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Librarian
JOHN C. STUMP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	General Assistant
ELSIE R. WORLEY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Cataloguer
HELEN D. BRYANT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Chief, Circulation Department

*Assistants, Reference Department*

NORMAN GREEN, IRENE WILBERT

*Assistants, Circulation Department*

DOROTHY CLARK, CHARLOTTE JAMES, MARY LOGAN

### Evening Assistants

CECILIA DONOGHUE, JANE DOYLE  
ROSE M. O'TOOLE - - - - - *Book Processor*



## MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

## Mechanics'-Mercantile Library

## Mechanics' Institute Chess and Checker Club

57 Post Street  
San Francisco, California

The Library now contains over one hundred and forty-one thousand volumes.

Special attention is given to the division of technology.

Over five hundred periodicals and newspapers are on file.

A chess and checker room is maintained, where smoking is permitted.

Library open daily, 9 a. m. to 10 p. m.

Sunday, 1 p. m. to 5 p. m.

Chess room, daily, 9 a. m. to 10 p. m.

## TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP

Entrance Fee.....	\$ 1.00
Half-yearly Dues (in advance).....	3.00
Life Membership .....	100.00

Non-residents may use the Library for one month on payment of fifty cents.

A member may introduce a friend (not a resident of the city), who will be allowed the use of the Library rooms for one month.

## LIBRARY RULES

Members are entitled to take out four books at a time, provided however, that only two books of new fiction or current magazines marked "One Week Only", whether regular books or extra books, may be out at the same time on one membership. Extra books may be taken out on payment of five cents each.

All new fiction and new magazines may be kept out one week only, and are not renewable. All other circulating books, except where marked "One Week" or "Seven Days," may be kept out two weeks and may be renewed for two weeks longer unless marked "Not Renewable." Renewal notice may be given by mail or telephone (GARfield 1750).

An overdue charge of five cents a day will be made on all one week books, current magazines and books marked "Not Renewable." On other books a charge of two cents a day will be made.

Reservation postals may be left for all circulating books.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

San Francisco, California,

April 2, 1946

To: Members of the Mechanics' Institute:

It is my pleasure and privilege to present to you my report for the 91st year of the Mechanics' Institute.

It is with deep and personal regret that I report to you the passing last June of our Secretary, Mr. John H. Wood. He had been connected with our Library for 58 years, the longest service in the history of the Institute. No one was more familiar with the traditions and operations of the Library than Mr. Wood and we all miss him very, very much. Your Board of Trustees unanimously adopted a resolution of respect to his memory which was prepared by his friend of many years, Mr. William Penn Humphreys, and copies mailed to his sisters and close personal friends.

## IN MEMORY OF JOHN HUGH WOOD

*John Hugh Wood was born in San Francisco on February 1, 1869. He became an Assistant in the Mechanics' Institute Library on October 12, 1886; subsequently he became First Assistant Librarian, and on July 1, 1911, upon the resignation of Joseph M. Cumming, he was elected Secretary of the Institute, a position which he filled, until his death on June 15, 1945, with great credit to himself and with even greater benefit to the Institute and its many members. He was connected with the Institute nearly fifty-nine years.*

*He knew the history of our city and took a prominent part in its activities. He was the Historian of the Lincoln Grammar School Association; he was a member of Stanford Parlor No. 76, Native Sons of the Golden West; he was a member of the United Commercial Travelers of America; and at the time of his death was the senior member of the local lodge of Elks.*

*Our deceased friend had many admirable qualities. He was intensely loyal to his County, his State, his City and to the Institute, whose interesting history he compiled for its seventy-fifth anniversary. He was highly efficient and ingenious as its chief administrative officer, and was well liked and respected by all with whom he came into contact. He was scrupulously exact in all his dealings and transactions, and was thoroughly familiar with all the myriad details of our Institution. He was conscientious in all his works.*



*He was kindly and genial, and enjoyed the social side of life. He truly loved his fellow man.*

*By his death the Mechanics' Institute has lost a valued and experienced officer; the Board of Trustees have lost an esteemed co-worker and friend; and our City has lost an outstanding and patriotic citizen.*

*We had hoped to have him with us for many years to come, but Providence has ruled otherwise. May he rest forever in happiness and peace.*

*John,—our good friend John: Hail! and Farewell.*

BE IT RESOLVED, therefore, that the foregoing be spread upon the minutes of the proceedings of this Board and that an engrossed copy thereof be presented to the family of our late Secretary.

The receipts from our building were \$10,514.66 more than those of last year but the operating expenses were also greater by \$8,933.00. The increase in receipts were due to the fact that the building is now full to capacity and also a slight increase in rents. The increase in operating expenses were, of course, due to the higher wages and higher cost of repairs and material.

For many years the elevators in our building have been far from satisfactory and during the war we were unable to do anything about it. However, your Board has contracted with the Otis Elevator Co. for the installation of modern elevators and, after they have been installed and when conditions are more favorable, we hope to bring the building more up to date.

Your Board of Trustees would appreciate any suggestions that might add to the efficiency of the Library but would suggest that they be made in writing so that they can be taken up by the Trustees at regular meetings.

Two of our Library Assistants, Messrs. John Stump and Norman Green have been released from their duties in the Armed Forces and are now back in their former positions and we all very happy to have them with us again and they feel the same way.

The annual election of Trustees resulted in the election of William A. Day, John F. Forbes, George U. Hind, William G. Merchant, William N. Rolph, Edwin W. Stadtmuller and Elgin Stoddard for a term of two years.

This will be my last year as your President as I have served for five years and it is only right that someone else should have this honor and privilege. I have enjoyed the privilege very much and before I close wish to thank my fellow Trustees for their always splendid cooperation, Mrs. Carmody, our Librarian, Miss Genevieve Tompkinson, who was elected Secretary in place of Mr. Wood and is doing a splendid job and to the Library personnel for their loyalty and willingness to help each other to carry on the work of the Library with cheerfulness and good will. It has been a great satisfaction to serve with them which has made my job a pleasure.

GEORGE U. HIND,

President

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

For the Year Ending February 28, 1946

San Francisco, April 2, 1946

To the Board of Trustees of the Mechanics' Institute,  
San Francisco.

Gentlemen:—

I have the honor to present herewith financial statement of the Mechanics' Institute for the year ending February 28, 1946:

March 1, 1945, Cash on deposit in various banks.....	\$114,059.25
Cash in revolving funds.....	450.00
Total Cash .....	\$114,509.25

### RECEIPTS

Mechanics' Institute Building—rent collections, etc. from March 1, 1945, to February 28, 1946.....	\$ 63,457.00
Interest, Ernest N. Atkins Memorial Fund.....	24.96
Interest, James Lick Fund.....	499.92
Interest, Savings Account.....	392.68
Interest, Mortgages Receivable Accounts.....	3,151.40
Interest, Bonds .....	18,117.10
Dividends, Preferred Stocks.....	7,933.75
Dividends, Common Stocks.....	6,246.49
Library and General Administration:	
Dues .....	\$ 23,330.00
Entrance Fees .....	1,244.00
Life Memberships .....	300.00
Books Paid For .....	220.95
Fines and Extra Books .....	2,492.30
Sundry .....	6.75
	27,594.00

Total .....	\$127,417.30
Received from Investment Accounts:	
Payments on Mortgages Receivable a/c .....	37,200.00
Post Street Building cost a/c .....	335.00
Payments on Notes Receivable.....	72.75
	37,607.75
Total Cash Received.....	165,025.05
	\$279,534.30



## EXPENDITURES

Mechanics' Institute Building — operating expenses from March 1, 1945, to February 28, 1946:

Pay Roll .....	\$ 23,930.35	
Taxes .....	10,151.12	
Insurance .....	1,338.97	
Heat .....	989.80	
Light and Power .....	3,019.19	
Water .....	230.14	
Window Cleaning .....	497.09	
Supplies .....	556.94	
Repairs .....	3,004.27	
General Expense .....	1,027.17	
Tax .....	301.04	
		\$ 45,046.08

## Library and General Administration:

Books, Binding and Periodicals..	\$ 10,805.47	
General Expense .....	4,160.65	
Insurance .....	19.53	
Legal Expense .....	250.00	
Withheld Tax .....	328.04	
Printing and Stationery .....	326.16	
Salaries .....	25,647.33	
Supplies .....	56.81	
Monthly Bulletin .....	235.76	
Rent of Library Rooms.....	18,720.00	
		60,549.75

Total Operating Expense.. \$105,595.83

## Investment Account:

Preferred Stocks Purchased.....	\$ 47,445.88	
Common Stocks Purchased.....	84,329.29	
Total .....	131,775.17	
Total Cash Paid Out.....		\$237,371.90
Cash on hand in various banks, Feb. 28, 1946.....	\$ 41,613.30	
Cash on hand in contingent funds.....	550.00	
Total Cash on Hand.....		42,163.30
		\$279,534.30

## SUMMARY

Cash on Hand, March 1, 1945.....	114,509.15
Total Income .....	\$127,417.30
Total Expense .....	105,595.73
Excess Receipts .....	21,821.57
Received from Investment Accounts.....	37,607.75
	\$173,938.47
Less Investment Made .....	131,775.17
Cash on Hand, February 28, 1946.....	\$ 42,163.30

The above figures indicate that the cash receipts (excluding the amounts received and expended for Investment Accounts) were \$21,821.57 in excess of Expenditures.

The net amount expended since April 18, 1906, on Books and Periodicals, and binding of new books has been.....\$425,873.52  
The amount paid out for construction, equipment, etc., of the Post Street Building has been.....\$391,983.87

## Insurance is carried as follows:

Books, Furnishings and other contents.....	\$115,000.00
Post Street Building .....	330,000.00

## The Resources of the Mechanics' Institute are as follows:

Post Street lot covered by Mechanics' Institute Building.

First Mortgages for \$40,915.00 on San Francisco Real Estate.

Bonds to the par value of \$481,023.06, as follows:

\$ 63,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., City Hall 5%.
400.00 San Francisco, Cal., Municipal Railway 5%.
5,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., Water 4 1/2%.
3,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., Hetch Hetchy Water 4 1/2%.
16,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., Hetch Hetchy Water 5%.
5,000.00 San Francisco, Cal., Spring Valley 4 1/2%.
2,000.00 Cloverdale, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
64,000.00 East Bay Municipal Utilities 5%.
2,000.00 Marin, Cal., Municipal Water District 5%.
30,000.00 Metropolitan Water District 4%.
4,393.90 Monterey, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
5,000.00 Petaluma, Cal., City High School 6%.
3,000.00 Pittsburg, Cal., Municipal Improvement 5%.
3,000.00 Sacramento, Cal., School District 4 1/2%.
3,000.00 Sacramento, Cal., High School District 4 1/2%.
10,000.00 Santa Rosa, Cal., Union High School District 5%.
5,000.00 Fresno County, Cal., 5%.
11,000.00 California State Bldgs. and University Bldgs., 4 1/2%.
4,000.00 California State Harbor 4%.
3,000.00 California State Highway 4 1/2%.
54,000.00 California State Highway 4 3/4%.
3,000.00 California State University Buildings 4 1/2%.
1,000.00 California State Veterans' Welfare 4 1/2%.
26,229.16 United States Savings Bonds (paying 2.9%).
125,000.00 United States Savings Bonds of Defense 2 1/2%.
5,000.00 United States Treasury Bonds 2 1/4%.
25,000.00 United States Treasury 2%.



## PREFERRED STOCK as follows:

20 shares	American Snuff.
150 shares	American Tobacco Co.
200 shares	Atchison Topeka & S. F. Ry.
150 shares	General Motors.
500 shares	Pacific Gas & Electric 6%.
100 shares	Pacific Tel. & Tel. Co. 6%.
500 shares	Southern Calif. Gas 6%.
200 shares	Union Pacific Ry.
200 shares	United States Smelting.
150 shares	United States Steel.
600 shares	Virginia Ry.

## COMMON STOCK as follows:

50 shares	Allied Chemical & Dye Corp.
200 shares	Allis Chalmers.
80 shares	American Tel. & Tel. Co.
200 shares	Carnation Co.
150 shares	Caterpillar Tractor Company.
200 shares	Continental Ins. Co.
70 shares	Dupont de Nemours & Co.
100 shares	Electric Auto Lite Co.
300 shares	General Electric.
200 shares	General Foods.
150 shares	General Motors Corp.
100 shares	Inland Steel Company.
50 shares	Norfolk & Western Ry.
200 shares	Pacific Lighting Corp.
300 shares	Standard Oil of California.
200 shares	Standard Oil of N. J.
100 shares	Sterling Drugs.
100 shares	United Fruit Co.

Cash on hand March 1, 1946, \$42,163.30.

Books, Furniture and Equipment of the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

GENEVIEVE TOMPKINSON, *Secretary*

## REPORT OF THE LIBRARY

For the Year Ending February 28, 1946

San Francisco, California, April 2, 1946

To the President and Board of Trustees, Mechanics' Institute.

Gentlemen:— I herewith submit the ninety-first annual report of the Library for the year ending February 28, 1946.

## Membership

March 1, 1945 .....		4,269
Added—Subscribing .....	1,270	
Reinstated .....	24	
Life—purchased .....	3	1,297
		5,566
Withdrawn—Life (deceased) .....	116	
Subscribing .....	647	763
		4,803

During the year 27 subscribing members who had paid dues continuously for thirty years were, according to the Constitution, made life members. Three life memberships were purchased.

The membership is divided as follows:

Honorary .....	2
Life .....	526
Subscribing .....	4,275
	4,803

## Book Accessions

Number of volumes listed March 1, 1945.....		141,988
Added by purchase .....	2,986	
Added by binding .....	241	
Added by gift .....	178	3,405

		145,393
Less lost, paid for, and discarded .....		2,925

Number of volumes listed February 28, 1946.....		142,468
---	--	---------

## Circulation

There were issued for home use 168,406 volumes, an average monthly circulation of 14,034 volumes.

## Accessions by Classes

	Purchased	Cost	Bound	Cost	Gifts	Total
General Works .....	59	\$257.27	17	\$68.75	15	91
Philosophy .....	78	187.23	1	3.25	6	85
Religion .....	40	77.29	—	—	2	42
Sociology .....	282	844.33	15	54.75	79	376
Philology .....	14	21.73	—	—	3	17
Science .....	98	270.16	38	134.50	13	149
Useful Arts .....	298	831.55	82	335.25	41	421
Fine Arts .....	135	361.61	20	78.25	6	161
Literature .....	178	355.73	1	3.25	18	197
Travel .....	91	269.94	3	11.75	3	97
Biography .....	190	473.95	1	3.25	8	199
History .....	222	465.07	—	—	8	230
Fiction and Juvenile.....	1,301	2,273.28	—	—	39	1340
Total.....	2,986	\$6,689.14	178	\$693.00	241	3405

## Table of Circulation Statistics

General Works .....	534	Literature .....	9,524
Philosophy .....	3,233	Foreign Literature .....	366
Religion .....	1,375	Travel .....	8,258
Sociology .....	5,515	Biography .....	9,194
Philology .....	262	History .....	8,667
Science .....	3,827	Fiction .....	92,536
Useful Arts .....	8,868	Periodicals .....	9,438
Fine Arts .....	6,543	Juvenile .....	266

	Total.....	168,406
Fiction.....	92,802 volumes, 55.00 per cent	
Non-Fiction.....	75,604 volumes, 45.00 per cent	
Adult Books.....	168,140 volumes, 99.84 per cent	
Children's books.....	266 volumes, 00.16 per cent	

Respectfully submitted,

MARY O. CARMODY,

*Librarian.*



## APPENDIX

Year Ending Feb. 28	Sub- scribing	Membership Life and Honorary	Total	Volumes Library	Circula- tion
1946 .....	4,275	528	4,803	142,468	168,406
1945 .....	3,655	614	4,269	141,988	158,477
1944 .....	3,096	610	3,708	141,832	141,657
1943 .....	2,708	598	3,308	142,328	136,483
1942 .....	2,875	591	3,466	142,095	151,106
1941 .....	3,048	584	3,632	142,376	166,928
1940 .....	3,243	555	3,800	139,908	181,945
1939 .....	3,299	563	3,862	137,655	189,748
1938 .....	3,296	562	3,858	135,463	192,507
1937 .....	3,404	570	3,974	132,273	197,969
1936 .....	3,407	590	3,997	130,355	212,344
1935 .....	3,312	598	3,910	127,815	220,372
1934 .....	3,290	604	3,896	124,425	230,545
1933 .....	3,517	649	4,166	121,666	250,140
1932 .....	3,835	664	4,499	118,928	254,205
1931 .....	3,878	666	4,546	114,347	237,974
1930 .....	3,748	677	4,425	108,697	208,552
1929 .....	3,657	679	4,336	103,123	176,174
1928 .....	3,789	703	4,492	98,195	165,253
1927 .....	4,032	702	4,734	102,056	161,980
1926 .....	4,030	690	4,723	98,696	164,347
1925 .....	4,170	690	4,860	94,992	169,631
1924 .....	4,356	652	5,008	91,433	172,712
1923 .....	4,317	657	4,974	87,855	172,902
1922 .....	4,160	646	4,806	84,056	175,502
1921 .....	3,842	650	4,492	80,776	150,376
1920 .....	3,408	649	4,057	77,140	128,480
1919 .....	2,994	653	3,647	73,128	101,728
1918 .....	3,135	590	3,725	70,055	118,159
1917 .....	3,144	598	3,742	65,875	132,721
1916 .....	2,982	617	3,599	63,672	127,866
1915 .....	2,862	626	3,488	56,740	131,687
1914 .....	2,709	632	3,341	50,776	125,650
1913 .....	2,855	643	3,498	44,527	118,998
1912 .....	2,660	644	3,304	39,266	110,194
1911 .....	2,385	651	3,036	35,392	88,753
1910 .....	1,717	645	2,362	32,186	71,741
1909 .....	2,034	646	2,680	28,324	83,042
1908 .....	2,120	643	2,763	24,179	.....
1907 .....	2,726	651	3,377	17,850	.....
April 18, 1906 .....	.....	.....	4,150	.....	.....

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS  
In Print

Annual Reports, 1907 to date.

List of books on architecture. August, 1913.

List of books on building and building materials. December, 1913.

List of books on electrical engineering. June, 1916.

List of books on petroleum. January, 1917.

List of books on aeronautics and military and naval engineering. January, 1918.

List of books added, 1914 to date.

List of periodical literature on file in the Mechanics' Institute Library, 1928.

Compiled by Mary O. Carmody.

Seventy-five years of history of the Mechanics' Institute, compiled by John

H. Wood, Secretary, 1930.